Amendments to the Claims

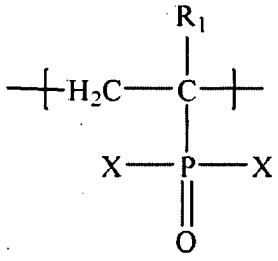
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Method for inhibiting magnesium hydroxide scale formation on structural parts in contact with an aqueous salt containing medium in a desalination system comprising:

adding to said aqueous salt containing medium in the system a treatment without acid feed, said treatment comprising

(a) a phosphono functional polymer I including a repeat unit of the structure



wherein R_1 is H or lower alkyl of from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms and wherein X is OH, or OM wherein M is a cation; and wherein Mw for the ~~phosphonate~~ phosphono functional polymer (I) ranges from about 500 to 50,000 and wherein the phosphono functional polymer (I) was prepared by aqueous polymerization;

b) a maleic-acid based carboxylate containing polymer scale inhibiting agent ~~H~~; and

c) a dispersant;

wherein said aqueous salt containing medium comprises magnesium cations and hydroxide anions under conditions in which, in absence of treatment, $Mg(OH)_2$ scale would form on said structural parts;

whereby the method inhibits formation of $Mg(OH)_2$ scale on the structural parts of the desalination system ~~without the use of mineral acid doping~~ .

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) Method as recited in claim 1 wherein said phosphono functional polymer I comprises a second repeat unit formed from polymerization of a nonphosphonate monomer (F).

4. (Original) Method as recited in claim 3 wherein said non phosphonate monomer (F) is a member selected from the group consisting of (i) carboxylate monomers, (ii) sulfonate monomers, (iii) amides, and (iv) allylethers and sulfonate and phosphate allyl ethers.

5. (Previously presented) Method as recited in claim 4 wherein said non phosphonate monomer (F) is a carboxylate monomer, said phosphono functional polymer I and carboxylate polymer II being added to said aqueous medium in a combined amount I and II of about 1-500 ppm.

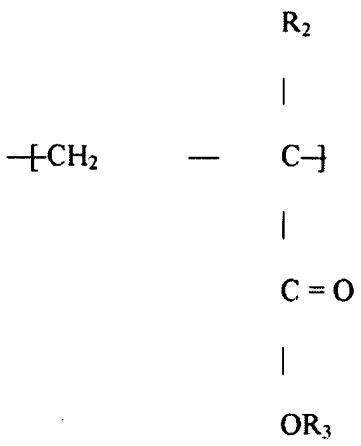
Claim 6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) Method as recited in claim 1 wherein said phosphonate phosphono functional polymer I is poly(isopropenylphosphonic acid).

9. (Previously presented) Method as recited in claim 1 wherein said phosphono functional polymer I is poly(vinylphosphonic acid).

10. (Previously presented) Method as recited in claim 1 wherein said phosphono functional polymer (I) comprises a copolymer having a repeat unit (F) of the structure



wherein R_2 is H or CH_3, and R_3 is H or a cation.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) Method of inhibiting magnesium hydroxide scale formation in a desalination system in which an aqueous salt containing medium is brought into contact with system equipment, comprising adding to said aqueous medium a treatment without acid feed comprising

a) polymer of isopropenylphosphonic acid, wherein the polymer of isopropenylphosphonic acid was prepared by aqueous polymerization;

b) a carboxylate containing polymer of ~~acrylic acid and its salts,~~ maleic acid and its salts and anhydride~~, and copolymers or mixtures thereof~~ scale inhibiting agent,

c) a dispersant; and optionally a

e) phosphonate;

wherein said aqueous salt containing medium comprises magnesium cations and hydroxide anions under conditions in which, in absence of treatment, $Mg(OH)_2$ scale would form on said system equipment; and

whereby the method inhibits formation of $Mg(OH)_2$ scale on the system equipment of the desalination system ~~without the use of mineral acid doping~~.

Claim 15. (Canceled)